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LARRY CRAIG

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NEWS RELEASE

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IDAHO CONSERVATION, WATER PROJECTS RECEIVE SUPPORT

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The Senate Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee approved its fiscal year 2008 funding bill today.

During his opening remarks, Idaho Senator Larry Craig, the Ranking Member of the Subcommittee, expressed his concern over the path of the appropriations process this year, citing substantial and unsustainable spending increases in many of the bills. Craig pointed out that the Interior bill has the smallest percentage increase, 2.8 percent, of any of the bills and said, **“I am worried that this kind of money cannot be managed and spent responsibly. In some areas, in the Interior bill and elsewhere, modest and incremental increases are justified, and I will support such increases.”**

During his opening remarks, Craig highlighted several important programs funded in the bill:

- Wildland firefighting accounts are beefed up, including restoring major cuts to the State Fire Assistance Program
- National Parks Centennial Initiative is fully funded at the President’s request
- Clean Water State Revolving Fund provides \$200 million over the President’s request

A number of Idaho projects, most of which are ongoing, are also supported in the bill:

Water Infrastructure

City of St. Anthony Wastewater Collection and Treatment Improvements (\$562,000)
City of Rexburg Storm Water Infrastructure Design and Improvements (\$137,000)
City of Marsing Water System Reconstruction Project (\$432,000)
City of Hazelton Wastewater System Improvements Project (\$469,000)

Species Conservation and Land Management

Idaho’s Strategic Plan for Managing Noxious Weeds (\$1.5 million)
Idaho Wolf Recovery (\$2.01 million)
Idaho Sage Grouse Management Plan (\$500,000)
Idaho Slickspot Peppergrass Management Plan (\$110,000)
Coldwater Fish Habitat Conservation (\$250,000)

Recovery of the California Condor (\$400,000)
Fire Research and Management Exchange System at UI (\$1.3 million)
Fire and Erosion in Western Rangelands: Evaluation of Post-fire Treatments at BSU (\$500,000)

Land Conservation

Upper Snake/South Fork Snake River Land and Water Conservation Fund Project (\$1.5 million)
Thunder Mountain Land Acquisition Project (\$900,000)

Preservation

Restoration of the 1902 Chesterfield Schoolhouse (\$450,000)
Historic Wilson Theater Restoration Project (\$200,000)

For more detailed information on any of these projects, please contact Craig's office. The bill now goes to the full Appropriations Committee and then to the Senate floor for approval.